

attention to peculiar appearances in the crape ring, and to the varying form of the shadow of the ball upon the rings.

But it is as a careful and indefatigable selenographer that his name is best known, and for this work his artistic skill eminently qualified him. In 1878 he became a member of the Selenographical Society, a small association of observers devoted to the study of the Moon, which existed till 1882, and he contributed various papers on lunar details to its journal. He continued this work in his numerous communications to the Liverpool Astronomical Society (1882-89), and was one of the first members of the British Astronomical Association, founded in 1890. He was Director of the Lunar Section of this Association, and gave three excellent reports of the Section in 1891, 1893, and 1895, in which are digests of the work done by other observers as well as by himself. He gave results of his lunar observations in a series of articles in the *English Mechanic*, and from 1887 contributed every month to *The Observatory* a valuable chapter of selenographical notes. He was the author of the chapters on the Moon in Webb's *Celestial Objects for Common Telescopes*, and *Astronomy for Amateurs*, edited by Westwood Oliver. His most considerable work, *The Moon*, was published in 1895, and is a valuable original contribution to selenography, containing an excellent map of the Moon on a scale of 18 inches to the diameter. Most of his papers are illustrated by his own careful drawings.

Mr. Elger was an ardent archæologist, and had a fine collection of antiquities. He was one of the main supporters of the Bedford Library and the Literary Institute, and was the founder of the Bedfordshire Natural History Society and Field Club, afterwards united with the Library and Institute. His services were always at the disposal of his fellow townsmen: he was a member of numerous committees, by which his loss will be greatly felt, and, like his father and grandfather, he served as Mayor of Bedford.

He was seized with paralysis in December last, and remained in a very weak state till January 9, when he died, at the age of 59, leaving a widow and two young sons.

GEORGE RICHARD FARNCOMBE, whose death occurred 1895 July 7, at Freiburg-im-Breisgau, was born at Birmingham, 1866 August 12. Being of a delicate constitution, he received a private education, and he subsequently graduated at Trinity College, Dublin (in 1884), receiving Respondent Honours. He then became articled to a firm of solicitors in Birmingham, filling up his leisure with those astronomical, meteorological, and geological studies which had early attracted him. In 1890 he came to London to prepare for his final examination in law, and threw himself heartily into the work of the numerous scientific societies of which he had long been a member. He joined and greatly enjoyed the London Geological Field Class, and in a short time Mr. Farncombe decided to relinquish the law and to devote himself entirely to geology. With this view he went to Edinburgh,

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and studied for a year under Professor Geikie. Then he returned to Dublin, and worked with Professor Cole. Here his health broke down, and he was compelled to spend a winter at St. Moritz. With the return of strength he proceeded to Munich, Freiburg, Vienna, and Berlin, spending several months at each University. In 1894 September he attended the Geological Congress at Munich, and in the following November returned to Freiburg to work with Professor Steinmann. Here his knowledge and industry speedily attracted attention, and in 1895 May Mr. Farncombe was sent into Italy to undertake some survey work. There he unfortunately drank some contaminated water and contracted typhoid fever, which developed on his return, and to which he succumbed in the midst of apparent convalescence. His funeral was attended by the Rector, Senate, and Professors of the University, while every "corps" among the students sent a deputation consisting of the flag-bearer, sword-bearers, and six men. Mr. Farncombe's character was such as to secure him respect and affection wherever he went; while his great abilities, combined with a tireless industry, would have doubtless led him to a high position in his profession had his life been spared.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society on 1890 January 10.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON HOWE was born at Hullerhurst, Stevenston, Ayrshire, in 1816. He was boarded in Saltcoats with Mr. Edward Gibb, parish schoolmaster of Ardrossan; next with the Rev. Mr. Roxburgh, Kilmaurs; was afterwards at Ayr Academy, Glasgow University, Edinburgh University, and finally at Paris. He was appointed to the East India Company's Civil Service; and for several years lived on the borders of Afghanistan. During the last war in that country he was attached to the reserve force. He was an excellent linguist, an enthusiastic student of astronomy and botany, and a frequent contributor to the press. In 1865 he published a book entitled, "A Theoretical Enquiry into the Physical Cause of Epidemic Diseases, accompanied with Tables," a copy of which is in the Society's library. It is devoted to proving that epidemics are caused by the effect of the Moon upon the Earth's atmosphere, and have an eighteen and a half years' period depending on the revolution of the Moon's nodes.

On his return from India he married Anne Forbes, daughter of the late Colonel Robertson, of Hallcraig, county Lanark, who survives him. He was greatly esteemed in the parish of Stevenston, where he passed the remainder of his life. He died on 1895 July 21, but the news of his death has only recently reached us.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society on 1883 January 12.